Smart cards for overseas citizens

428. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide smart cards for overseas citizens;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme;

(c) whether Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) would now be treated at par with Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and would be entitled for same FDI investments in sectors like aviation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with the percentage of equity in domestic airlines by NRIs and PIOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It will supplement the Overseas Citizenship Registration Certificate. The details are yet to be worked out.

(c) and (d) So far PIO card holders have not been treated at par with NRIs in so far as FDI in domestic aviation is concerned.

Facilities available to PIOs and NRIs

429. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) enjoy same parity with Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in respect of all facilities available to the later in economic, financial, aviation and educational fields;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether investment of PIOs are treated at par with NRIs in domestic aviation sector; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?